

March 26, 2021

Dear KIS Community,

We have had a number of big events the past few weeks. The PYP Exhibition was a few weeks ago and last night, we celebrated our DP Visual Arts students as they exhibited the work that they have developed over the nearly two year period. This Wednesday, our MYP Personal Project Exhibition will take place both in person (for parents by schedule) and virtually. Congratulations to them and their teachers. We are so proud of these students and their accomplishments!

Please see the following notes regarding upcoming events and timely reminders.

Have an enjoyable and safe long weekend.

Best wishes,



Paul Johnson
Head of School

[New] Songkran Break

School will be out of session for the Songkran Break from Saturday, March 2 through Sunday, April 18. Classes resume on Monday, April 19, 2021. The Thai government has recently announced the inclusion of April 12 as an official government holiday therefore KIS offices will be closed from April 12 through April 15 in observance of Songkran. KIS offices will resume normal operations on April 16.

[New] Search Process for the Director for Teaching and Learning

We have been engaged in a search process for our first Director for Teaching and Learning at KIS over the past month. We were fortunate to have over 90 candidates from among ten nationalities apply for the position, and through this process, we are now at the finalist stage. The Search Committee have interviewed four finalist candidates this week in individual sessions with each candidate (brief biographies further below). At one stage, we were considering a wider interaction between the community and each candidate, but navigating time zones and technology has made that more difficult this particular year.

The Search Committee's top priority will be to recommend to the HOS the best candidate for our community through our representative Search Committee consisting of: Scott Cameron (Science teacher - Secondary School), Dinnhe Krebs (EY1 teacher - Primary School), Paul Johnson (Head of School), Manitsara (Oui) Supakit Kolius (Thai teacher - Secondary School), Xavier Mahdavian (PE teacher - Secondary School), Carole Parker (Grade 5 teacher - Primary School), Usa (May) Srisavai (Senior Manager, Human Resources), Daniel Trump (IB Coordinator), June van den Bos (Primary Principal), Loretta Wangrungrungtavon (Parent, KISPA President).

It is our intention to have a decision to announce prior to the Songkran holiday. We thank all of our candidates who participated in the process and thank them for their time, energy, and interest.

Finalist Candidates for Director for Teaching and Learning

Ms. Christina Botbyl - Christina is currently the PreK - Grade 12 Curriculum Director at the American International School Kuwait, an IB Continuum School serving 2200 students. She has served in this position since 2011 and has been involved in teaching and leadership for nearly 30 years. Christina has a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is in progress toward an EdD in Educational Leadership from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Jennifer Sikes - Jennifer is currently the schoolwide IB Curriculum Director at the ILG School in Pristina, Kosovo, and has been involved in international education for nearly 25 years. Previous roles have included Principal and Assistant Principal in school districts in Washington state, and Director of Teaching and Learning at the American School Foundation of Monterrey, Mexico. Jennifer has a Masters in Education from Lesley University in Massachusetts.

Mr. Tim Vanderpool - Tim is currently the schoolwide Director of Curriculum and Learning at the American School of Vietnam and has been in that role since 2015. Previous roles have included Curriculum Coordinator at St. Mary's International School in Tokyo, Japan, and Instructional Coach roles in several districts in California. Tim has a Master's degree in Instructional Design and Technology from Walden University in Minnesota and an advanced certificate in School Management and Leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Ms. Rebecca Zipprich - Rebecca is currently the Head of School at Shu Ren International School, an IB World School and Mandarin Immersion school in Berkeley, California for pre-K through grade 5 students. She has been in her current role since 2017 and prior to that held roles as Head of School at Hong Qiao International School (Shanghai), the Curriculum Director at the Western International School of Shanghai, and Principal at Rainbow Bridge International School, also in Shanghai. Rebecca has a Master's degree in Elementary Education from DePaul University in Chicago and a Masters of Educational Leadership from Arizona State University.

[New] School Photos

KIS will be having our annual school photo sessions from Monday, April 19th to Monday, April 26th. During this period, we will have professional photographers coming in to take photographs of all classes from EY1-G12 in groups as well as individual student photos. Faculty and staff will be obligated to take part in the faculty and staff group photo and individual portrait as indicated on the photo schedule. Please see the [photo schedule](#) here. Should students wish to bring in their favorite items that represent themselves and help to make them feel proud in their individual photo, they are welcome to do so. Suggested items are books, sports equipment (football, football kits, etc.), certificates, etc. Please do not send in any inappropriate items such as toy guns, princess/superhero costume, toy sword/weapons, etc.

The photographer's team will strictly follow the time stated on the photo schedule. If a student is late or absent for their class photo as per the schedule, it will not be possible to have the whole class retake the photograph again. However, the student will be able to have their individual photograph taken.

KIS families and KIS staff can take this opportunity to come and take family photo(s) with advanced booking by emailing kisevent@kis.ac.th The available time slot is indicated on the schedule as "Family & Staff".

[New] Brief News From Our School Divisions and Athletics/Activities

Primary School:

From Ms. June:

As we head into the last week of term 2, we would like to welcome back Ms. Alex on April 1st as she returns from her maternity leave. We are all excited and are looking forward to her return. We will also be celebrating Songkran through our Thai Department on April 1st and 2nd. This year we will be focusing on the more traditional aspects of this holiday related to Thai culture and tradition. Students activities will be on display in the atrium. We are encouraging all students to wear Thai costumes on Friday to celebrate Songkran. Grade 5 teachers will also be conducting their parent conferences Tuesday through Thursday this coming week. Please contact your child's teacher if you have not yet signed up for a conference. We look forward to seeing parents next term when we conduct our morning catch up meetings.

A kind reminder to everyone that swimming is a part of the curriculum here at KIS. We have been waiting for a window of opportunity to include swimming back into the programme and now we are able to swim and when the weather is warm. It's important that everyone takes part in the programme. If your child is sick, please bring along a doctor's note to excuse your child from the programme, and if they are really sick then you need to keep them home until they are fully able to participate. Please, let's ensure our learners are getting the exercise and developing the life skills they require as a part of a balanced and healthy lifestyle. Thank you for your support and attention.

Please, may I also remind you that we still need for you to take your children home after picking them up from school. Hopefully, we will be able to change this restriction soon, but for now please remember the playgrounds are out of bounds from 2:30pm unless your child is a part of the Extra Curricular Programme.

After the Songkran Holiday, Gerry and I will be hosting a series of morning meetings to catch up, answer questions, and discuss what's happening in the PYP. We hope these will be face-to-face meetings and will let you know soon. Please feel free to put together some questions as we are happy to respond to them all. Directly after the break (Monday, April 18th), we will be sending information and sign ups for these upcoming grade level meetings.

Have a safe and enjoyable Songkran Holiday! As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me through Ms. May or via email at june.va@kis.ac.th

Secondary School:

From Mr. Mike:

Grade 6-10 Families you should now have registered for your three-way conference for the following dates:

Grade 10 - Monday March 29th

Grade 7 - Tuesday March 30th

Grade 6 and 9 - Wednesday March 31st

Grade 8 - Thursday April 1st

To access a teacher for your meeting, please use this [document](#), and click on the desired teacher's link at the appointed time for your conference. After you click on the selected teacher's link, you will be let into a "waiting room". Once the teacher is ready for your conference to begin, they will let you into the Google Meet session. Everyone who is in your family that would like to attend the conference should attend using the same link. You can do this from one shared device, or as many devices as your family would prefer based upon your needs.

Please be reminded that students will not attend school on the day of their conference, but they should attend the conference via Google Meet. If families are unable to book an appointment with a desired teacher, Ms Nura will be able to assist families in booking virtual Three-Way Conferences outside of the specified date. This means, however, that some conferences may need to be booked after the Songkran holiday.

For our Grade 11 Families, we will be hosting our three-way conferences in June to help students and parents process end of year exams, and to discuss progress and plans for their child's Extended Essay.

University Updates:

Since our last communication, our students have received more exciting offers and admissions: University of California - San Diego (x2), University of Bath, Babson College, University College Maastricht, Leeds Arts University (x2), University of Edinburgh, and University of Amsterdam (x2). The acceptances this week were particularly diverse, with students getting offers for Computer Science, Business and Management, Animation, Comic and Concept Arts, Nursing Studies, Ancient Studies, and Political Science programs of study. It is great to see all of the many wonderful opportunities that KIS IBDP students are afforded through experiences, education, and outcomes they achieve at KIS!

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me through Ms Nura or via email at michael.hi@kis.ac.th.

Athletics and Activities:

From Ms. Shelley:

The KIS In-House Swim Gala has been postponed until after the Songkran break. We are targeting Saturday, May 8 as the new date for the Gala. Families of our swim team will get more information as we get closer to the event.

This week, our KIS Wolves were able to have more game experiences! Our U19 Badminton team was challenged by the faculty and staff at KIS. Our adult Wolves came to play with passion and determination and they were able to give our team a strong challenge. We have many talented Wolves in our pack and it was wonderful to see the love of this lifelong sport.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at shelley.wo@kis.ac.th

[Reminder] Re-enrollment Intentions

Every year around March, the admissions office requests that all families let us know if their children are continuing at KIS next school year. Please keep an eye out for the email about this, which will be sent to you soon.

[Reminder] Language of Inclusion

As stated in our Family Handbook and as a kind reminder, English is not only viewed as our language of instruction, it is also promoted at KIS as the language of inclusion. Students from many linguistic backgrounds come together to learn in our community, with English being the common language of all students. As a school, all students should feel valued as members of the community, so to ensure inclusion and a sense of belonging students are encouraged to communicate with each other in their shared language, English, during the school day. Thank you for your help as parents to support us in ensuring that all members of the community join us to promote this feeling of inclusion that comes through our common language. Thank you very much for your support.

[Reminder] Use of ID Cards at School Entrances

Access to our school campus is very much a matter of community safety and we have protocols and procedures to ensure that it remains a safe place at all times. The use of the KIS ID cards ensures that we know who is on and off of campus. It is not permitted to loan ID cards to those that do not have regular access to our campus (i.e. nannies, relatives, friends) as this creates a situation in which we do not know exactly who is on our campus. Parents are asked for their support in ensuring that at all times it is only the cardholder that is using their ID card to access campus.

[Reminder] KIS Risk Assessment form

Thank you for completing the KIS Risk Assessment form. We would ask that you resubmit the form if the travel circumstances for anyone in your family changes at any time. [KIS Risk Assessment form](#)